



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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October 20, 1992

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: Site Inspection, Eager Beaver Placer Claims, E/001/047, E/001/059, E/001/060, E/001/067, E/001/077, E/001/078, S/001/009, and S/001/010, Beaver County, Utah

Date of Inspection: September 24, 1992
Time of Inspection: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Conditions: Sunny, warm
Participants: Holland Shepherd, Tony Gallegos, and Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Evaluation of recreational dredging impacts on the Indian Creek stream channel, Eager Beaver Claim.

As a result of a number of notices (see above file #'s) and inquiries concerning the Eager Beaver Claims, the Minerals team decided to visit the site to assess the impacts. Also, Lynn Findlay, of Fishlake National Forest, informed us that this particular site had been heavily impacted by recreational dredgers. This year in particular, has been very busy for the Eager Beaver.

We did find evidence of heavy usage in many locations along the portion of the Indian Creek where the claim is located. The claim is being leased by the Gold Prospectors Association of America, a group which has been inviting its members to utilize the site. Large pits have been excavated along the stream channel, mostly in loose alluvium (sands & gravels). In places, the stream embankments have been excavated along the cut bank or outer curve of the channel, under-cutting and destabilizing the embankments significantly (see photos, file #E/001/047). Some of these excavations were quite extensive 8-10 feet deep and 3-4 feet high (see photos). The method by which these excavations were made, we assume was mechanical, because of the extent of disturbance. Various prospectors have also constructed some small dams in the stream channel to trap sediment. These disturbances are insignificant, compared to those left behind by pit excavation.

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Some areas have been used for camping and congregating adjacent to the stream. These areas have been heavily impacted. Fire pits, trash and debris can be found in areas of highest usage. Also, the vegetation has been removed via compaction and cutting.

Recommendation: Other sites which we have visited, in the State, have not shown this type of heavy impact. It is clear that some areas are more sensitive than others and some that are sensitive will not suffer unless they get the heavy usage. Sites need to be evaluated on a site specific basis and permits issued accordingly. The Division should attempt to develop a standard procedure and formal agreements with other state and federal agencies, regarding this type of activity.

jb
cc: Lynn Findlay, Fish Lake National Forest
E001047